

Appl. No. 10/626,897

Amendment and Response dated June 6, 2005

Reply to Office Action of March 3, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 7-9, 14, 15, 17, 25 and 26 remain in this application. Original Claims 1-6, 10-13, 16 and 18-24 (previously withdrawn) have been cancelled. Original claims 7, 8, 14 and 17 have been amended to overcome objections as described below. New claims 25 and 26 have been added to better claim aspects of the invention disclosed in the original specification and drawings. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

In the Office Action of March 3, 2005, Claims 8 and 9 are objected to because of informalities. Claim 8 has now been amended to add the appropriate preposition in context in the limitation "disposed on the locking member" from original line 5 (now line 29). The amendment of Claim 8 also satisfies the objection to Claim 9, which depended from the objected to claim.

Claims 1, 4-6, 10-13 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Schmidt (US 842498) in view of Fradin (US 4231135). These claims have been cancelled.

Claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Schmidt (US 842498) in view of Fradin (US 4231135) and further in view of Anscher (US 5604958). These claims have been cancelled.

Claims 7-9, 14, 15 and 17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were found allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In this amendment, Claims 7, 8 and 14 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to Claims 7, 8 and 14, as amended. Further, since Claims 9, 15 and 17 now depend from allowable claims, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to Claims 9 and 15, and Claim 17, as amended.

Appl. No. 10/626,897

Amendment and Response dated June 6, 2005

Reply to Office Action of March 3, 2005

New claims 25 and 26 have been added to more clearly point out the present inventive concept. New claim 25 depends from claim 14, while new claim 26 depends from claim 25. The subject matter of the new claims is fully disclosed in the original specification and drawings (e.g., paragraph 0086; Fig. 14), thus no new matter has been added. Favorable consideration and approval of new claims 25 and 26 is respectfully requested.

Since the number of independent claims is now 3, and the number of total claims is 8, no additional claim fees are believed necessary.

Applicant is filing concurrently herewith a Request for Extension of Time (one month) along with the appropriate fee. If for some reason this Request for Extension of Time is missing, please regard this Response as including such a request.

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Office Action dated March 3, 2005. Applicant has addressed each issue raised by the examiner. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested.

(The remainder of this page is intentionally blank.)

Appl. No. 10/626,897

Amendment and Response dated June 6, 2005

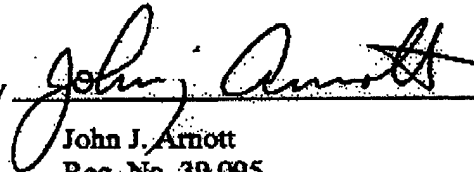
Reply to Office Action of March 3, 2005

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt in order to place this case in condition for allowance. For the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of the claims pending in the application. Please charge any additional fees or deficiencies in fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0780/BEST-26,383 of HOWISON & ARNOTT, L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWISON & ARNOTT, L.L.P.

By



John J. Arnett

Reg. No. 39,095

Tel.: (972) 680-6059

June 6, 2005

HOWISON & ARNOTT, L.L.P.

P.O. Box 741715

Dallas, TX 75374-1715

Tel.: (972) 680-6059

Fax: (972) 479-0464